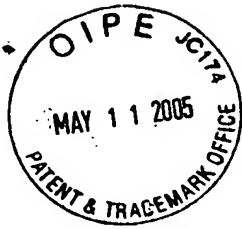


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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	10/623,807
		Filing Date	July 22, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Kotoyoshi MURAKAMI
		Group Art Unit	3726
		Examiner Name	Essama OMGBA
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	740819-1024

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration and Power of Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Corrected Filing Receipt with Enclosures <input type="checkbox"/> A self-addressed prepaid postcard for acknowledging receipt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): PTO Form-1449 listing four (4) references
Remarks		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 for the above identified docket number.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Donald R. Studebaker, Registration No. 32,815 Nixon Peabody LLP 401 9 th Street, N.W. Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
Signature	
Date	May 11, 2005



Application No: 10/623,807
Docket No: 740819-1024

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) Examiner: Essama OMGBA
Kotoyoshi MURAKAMI)
Application No. 10/623,807) Group Art Unit: 3726
Filed: July 22, 2003)
For: JUNCTION METHOD AND) Confirmation No. 5277
JUNCTION TOOL)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
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401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

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05/12/2005 SZEWDIE1 00000086 192380 10623807
01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed. However, copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed since it is no longer required according to the July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirement for copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications in national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and international applications entering the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

I, the undersigned, hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

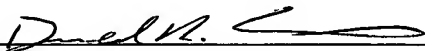
Application No: 10/623,807
Docket No: 740819-1024

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee amount of \$180 to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this filing which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 (740819-1024).

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Donald R. Studebaker
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP
401 9th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128

(202) 585-8000

Date: May 11, 2005

SUBSTITUTE FOR FORM 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/623,807
				Filing Date	July 22, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Kotoyoshi MURAKAMI
				Art Unit	3726
				Examiner Name	Essama OMGBA
				Attorney Docket Number	740819-1024
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-09-508073	08-19-1997	MIDLING et al.		Abstract
		JP-2001-259863 A	09-25-2001	KUMAGAI et al.		Abstract
		JP-2002-066760 A	03-05-2002	NOMURA et al.		Abstract

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		February 15, 2005 Notice of Reasons of Rejection from Japanese Patent Office for Patent Application No. JP-2002-223594	√
			√
			√

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.